



BILL RICHARDSON
GOVERNOR

State of New Mexico
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Secretary
Harold Runnels Building
1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110
Telephone (505) 827-2855
Fax (505) 827-2836



RON CURRY
SECRETARY

DERRITH WATCHMAN-MOORE
DEPUTY SECRETARY

July 12, 2004
Immediate Release

Contact: Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Dir.
Phone: (505) 827-0314

Environment Department to Tackle Environmental Justice Issues In Las Vegas, Acoma

(Santa Fe, NM) — The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will hold Environmental Justice listening sessions in Northern and Western New Mexico in the coming weeks. These sessions are part of a statewide plan to study and address the issue of environmental justice. By tackling this issue, NMED hopes to ensure that no population in New Mexico is exposed to a disproportionate amount of the negative human health and environmental impacts of pollution or other environmental hazards.

These sessions will be held on the following dates in the following locations:

Las Vegas, Wednesday July 21 from 2 to 8 pm at New Mexico Highlands University, Donnelly Library, Lower Level G-35

Acoma, Tuesday July 27 from 1 to 8 pm at the Sky City Hotel and Conference Center

These meetings are designed to give New Mexicans an opportunity to provide input and comment on environmental justice in their communities.

“It goes without saying that all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, income, or education level, should be treated fairly,” said NMED Deputy Secretary Derrith Watchman-Moore. “This is true when you are applying for a job or buying a house as well as with the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. By investigating and addressing this problem, NMED hopes to ensure that no community is forced to shoulder a disproportionate burden of pollution or environmental harm.”

A future session will also be held in Albuquerque on August 17-19.

Representatives from NMED, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other local or Tribal governments will be in attendance to personally hear concerns. Any person or organization that wishes to provide oral comments will be given five minutes to present their environmental justice concerns. Written statements can also be submitted during the session or by mail. Please send all comments to: EJ Listening Session Workgroup, 801 University Boulevard SE, Suite 302, Albuquerque, NM, 87106. These recommendations will be used to formulate community-based policies and planning initiatives.

For further information contact Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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